

British Council Library in Kolkata launches collection for civil service exam aspirants

- Additional library membership category will help aspirants prepare for IAS, WBCS and other civil service exams
- Talks and workshops planned for the next few months, the first starting this weekend with Dhaval Jain IAS, Additional District Magistrate (General), Howrah

Kolkata, 9 December 2019: British Council has yet another good news for Kolkata. Its library in Kolkata, a learning centre for over 70 years, launched a new collection of books and study materials that will help prepare students appearing for civil service examinations.

The launch was accompanied by an insightful discussion between Mr Dhaval Jain IAS, Additional District Magistrate (General), Howrah, who was in a conversation with Debanjan Chakrabarti, Director British Council, East and Northeast India, on the '*Experiences and myths of taking a civil services exam*'.

Mr. Jain has earlier served as Officer on Special Duty to the Chief Secretary and Under Secretary, Government of West Bengal. Senior government officials and students were present at the occasion.

The collection, comprising books on General Studies, Public Administration, Geography/ Geology, Anthropology, Management, Sociology, Political Science, Psychology, Philosophy, Economics, History and Education, has been curated in consultation to include noteworthy publications by publishing houses including Tata McGrawHill, Willey, Pearson, Routledge, PHI, Vikas, Oxford University Press, S Chand and Rawat.

British Council has been working with Administrative Training Institute (ATI), Government of West Bengal, to impart Communicative English language training to officers from various departments since 2013. Over 500 civil service officers have been trained till date, with the courses focusing developing spoken English, presentation skills, email and report writing skills.

Debanjan Chakrabarti, Director British Council, East and Northeast India said, "We are delighted to launch this collection of books at our library that will help aspirants prepare for the civil services exams. This collection not only complements our existing work in supporting the civil service officers from West Bengal but also creates opportunities for young people to succeed. In addition to the materials, civil services aspirants will be able to access focused talks and workshops that will help address their needs and provide relevant insights.

Our work with the government of West Bengal to provide communication skills training for WBCS officers strengthens the existing educational and cultural ties between Britain and Bengal. The civil services collection is just another link in the chain of our ongoing effort to improve skills and education opportunities in the city."

The British Council Library in Kolkata is now open on weekends too. For those individuals and families who do not find time to go to the library on weekdays due to their schedules, can make full use of the library resources, including workshops, library access and study spaces over the weekends.

About the British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We work with over 100 countries in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society. Last year we reached over 80 million people directly and 791 million people overall including online, broadcasts and publications. We make a positive contribution to the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust. Founded in 1934 we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body. We receive a 15 per cent core funding grant from the UK government. britishcouncil.org

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